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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bolivia/Peru

DATE DISTR. 3 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Split in Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario
Ranks

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Although it was previously reported that the alleged split in the Movimiento Nacionalista Revolucionario (MNR) was invented by the Party to mislead the Government (c [redacted]), a well-placed source now states that the MNR has indeed split into two parts. One group includes the younger military element and some members of the Logia Radepa. This group is being inspired and aided in its activities by ex-Major Alberto Taborga, General Pena y Lilla, General Bernadino Bilbao Rioja, and Colonel Felix Tavera. The other faction includes the laborers, miners, and factory unions, and is being aided by Juan Lechin, Noe Mariaca, and Florentino Quiroz.
2. The reason for the split in the Party (according to source) is that Lechin's followers are opposed to, and fear, any military control of Bolivia. They feel that the working class of the country would receive no benefits from such a regime. They are also extremely bitter because they feel that Taborga and his followers have betrayed the MNR.
3. Taborga is now staying on a farm in the town of Unduani, close to La Paz. It is believed that he was not detained during the recent roundups of MNR leaders because he has been used by the police as an agent. The faction opposing Taborga believes that it was through Taborga's aid that the police were able to thwart recent MNR revolutionary plans. He supplied information about the Party's plans, including projects for an alliance between the Partido Izquierda Revolucionario (PIR) and the MNR in a joint attempt to bring about a general strike in the country. This information which Taborga allegedly submitted to the police was, in great part, responsible for the declaration of the state of siege and the resultant detention of MNR leaders. Taborga's motive for betraying his party was reputedly to gain all the Government favor possible and to attempt to whitewash his reputation. Moreover, he was paid a monthly fee for his services by the Bolivian National Police.
4. Taborga, moved by consideration of the recent anti-Government military successes in Peru and Venezuela, has now deserted the Government. He is also in communication with Edmundo Nogales, ex-Colonel in the Bolivian Army and MNR member, who has been in exile in Arequipa since 1946. Nogales is now in Lima, where he is reported to be in contact with Colonel Alfonso Llosa.

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Llosa has allegedly promised aid to Nogales in any attempt by the military to overthrow the Hertzog Government. Taborga has now decided to throw his forces in with those of Nogales. Llosa, Nogales, and Taborga are reported to have been very close friends during the Villarroel regime, when Llosa was Military Attache to Bolivia. Taborga is at present planning to go to Lima, where he will confer with Nogales and Llosa. He may then continue to Buenos Aires with Nogales for conferences with Paz Estenssoro. These leaders are expected to attempt to formulate a plan which will be attractive to the younger element.

5. A secondsource confirms this split, and states that Taborga has expressed bitter feelings toward the labor faction of the MNR. He claims the labor group has tried to undermine his position ever since his arrival in Bolivia from Chile in 1947. He has also been heard to admit openly his sympathetic feelings toward any military coup which would rid Bolivia of the Hertzog Government. The command of the MNR has tried in every way possible to smooth out the difference between the labor and military factions of the Party. The schism still exists at present, however.

25X1A6a ~~SECRET/CONTROL~~ **Comment.** The suspicion that Taborga was an agent for the police has arisen before, inasmuch as it has been noted that he has never been detained when the police have arrested other MNR leaders. Taborga is well known for his traitorous character and his fanatic desire for personal gain. It was Taborga who in 1943 used the National Police to overthrow the Government of President Enrique Penaranda and, as a result of this revolution, was named Minister of Government by the Junta Government. Soon after his appointment, however, it was discovered that he was involved in counter-revolutionary plans against the Junta Government, and he was exiled to Chile, where he remained until early 1947. In September 1947 he was believed to have been organizing a revolutionary committee among certain exiled MNR and Army personnel with the hope of staging a revolution in the near future.)